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MEMBERS RICHARD ALEXANDER JOHN H. HYBARGER BRAD NURFMBERG



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

MINUTES

Quarterly Meeting of Thursday, January 17, 2002 6:00 p.m. 374-A Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

Vice Chairperson Sandra Aronberg noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Sandra Aronberg, M.D., Vice Chairperson Richard Alexander John Hybarger Brad Nuremberg

STAFF PRESENT:

Betty Gobst Martha Littlefield Nyla Jefferson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rebecca Barboza, California State Department of Fish and Game Diego C. Busatto, California State Department of Fish and Game Louise Fiorillo, California State Department of Fish and Game Mike Dover, Executive Director, Ocean Challenge

MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2002

On motion of Commissioner Alexander, seconded by Commissioner Nuremberg and unanimously carried, the minutes of October 18, 2001 were approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Vice Chairperson Aronberg reviewed the Commission's most recent Summary Report of Income, Expenditures and Fund Balance and reported a fund balance of \$108,268 as of December 31, 2001. Fines collected up to the end of December were \$1,369 plus interest of \$415 for a total of \$1,784.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Report on Conference:

Commissioner Nuremberg reported that he and Commissioner Hybarger attended the November 16, 2001 California County Fish and Game Commissions Conference in Davis and he called Commissioners' attention to the updated draft of the associations constitution and bylaws. Sonke Mastrup, California State Department of Fish and Game (CSDFG), was present to promote the idea of a statewide association of commissions and offer the State's assistance on local issues adopted by the association. The bylaws were adjusted to reflect an associate membership to be extended to the members of the CSDFG and to stagger the election of the Board of Directors so that one would be elected at each meeting. The initial membership dues were set at \$10.00 for each member.

Commissioner Nuremberg further stated that the next step would be to sponsor the next meeting in Spring and to place this on the agenda so as to elect a slate of officers and go from there.

Commissioner Nuremberg asked staff to compile a list of email addresses of the various county Fish and Game Commissions in the State.

Prop 12 Bond Grant Notice:

Commissioner Hybarger noted that there is a January 24th meeting to explain the grant proposal for the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers, to discuss park enhancements, land acquisition, trail establishment, and watershed development. The program guides are now available and can be obtained through the CSDFG. He emphasized that this is an important issue with which to stay abreast.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM THE OCEAN CHALLENGE MARINE EDUCATION FOR \$1,500 TO ASSIST IN FUNDING THE FISHING AND CONSERVATION AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Mike Dover provided a description of the Ocean Challenge organization including it's collaborative efforts with a group in Long Beach called CORAL to provide an after-school academic enrichment program to six sites within Long Beach. Ocean Challenge serves four of these sites and has a curriculum including topics such as: local fishing regulations, the need for conservation, the dangers of pollution, wild weather, endangered species, oceanography, research, and other topics related to the marine environment.

Vice Chairperson Aronberg asked about the location of the schools that will provide the educational program. Mr. Dover stated that each school has an after-school site for lectures and every fourth meeting is an outing on Ocean Challenge's fifty-foot vessel to give the students hands-on experience with the issues were taught in the classrooms. It motivates the kids to continue learning and gives them a desire to do something other than being in the streets.

In addition to the fifty-foot boat, the organization has two smaller boats, purchased with donations provided by various corporation sponsors.

Commissioner Hybarger was unsure of the specific use of the funds requested and asked Mr. Dover for clarification referring to the first paragraph on page five of the grant application. Mr. Dover replied that it was his understanding that this grant was to be a general grant to cover the entire program. He continued, stating that the intent was to place the funds in the general fund and that it would be used for educational purposes and not director's salaries.

Commissioner Alexander raised a question pertaining to the last paragraph of page two regarding

consumption. Mr. Dover conceded that it would be more appropriate to reflect a more general description than the one stated. The main intent of the organization incorporating this definition of consumption was to prevent kids from catching fish, taking them home and then disposing of them instead of utilizing them for consumption.

Commissioner Alexander voiced concern regarding the accountability of the funds. According to Ocean Challenge's 1999 tax return approximately half of the funds received went to the director's salary and with the hiring of additional part-time staff the funds for programs are further diminished. Commissioner Alexander noted that there is not a clear breakdown of accounts to show the actual receipt and disbursement of specified funds. Commissioner Hybarger stated that he would be more satisfied if there was a specific breakdown of funds to costs or services as stated under §13103 of the 2001 California Fish and Game Code. On motion of Commissioner Nuremberg, seconded by Commissioner Hybarger, with Commissioner Alexander voting nay, the Commission duly approved the \$1,500 grant request to Ocean Challenge for educational purposes.

<u>DISCUSSION OF THE PREPARATION FOR THE MAY 2002 ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE</u> <u>OF THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES FISH AND GAME COMMISSIONS</u>

This conference was tentatively scheduled for May 17, 2002. Staff was asked to check the availability of that date and contact the Commissioners.

<u>DISCUSSION OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE FISH AND GAMES'S PROPOSAL FOR THE 2002-03</u> DEER HUNT IN THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY AREA

A flyer was provided in the Commissioners packets from the CSDFG asking for proposals from Los Angeles County Fish and Game Commissions for the upcoming deer hunt to be discussed at CSDFG's February 8, 2002 meeting. The flyer strictly covered archery and the proposed limit range was between 200 - 2000. Since no information was provided for the increase and concerns were raised about the large range (500 tags were issued last year for this type of hunting), the Commission felt that they were not in a position to make any type of recommendation without further research and agreed to coordinate a proposal with staff before the February 8th meeting.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION ON SYMPOSIUM ON URBAN WILDLIFE

Commissioner Hybarger stated to the Commission that the wildlife issues are overlooked unless a species is placed on the endangered list. He also stated that there is a need to educate the public of the conditions, prospects, prognosis, and dangers for the management of wildlife within Los Angeles County. He has spoken with representatives from the Department of Forestry and CSDFG who feel that holding a symposium bringing experts and lay people together to present material and promote discussion would be helpful to the promotion of wildlife. Commissioner Hybarger will work with the staff to determine the cost, options and possible topics.

DISCUSSION ON THE UPDATE OF COMMISSION BYLAWS

Staff explained that changes to the bylaws were necessary to coincide with ordinances changes and that the Commission needed to vote on the changes before they could be adopted. **On motion of Commissioner Nuremberg, seconded by Commissioner Alexander, the Commission unanimously approved the updated bylaws.**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

On motion of Commissioner Nuremberg, seconded by Commissioner Alexander, the Commission unanimously approved extending the terms of the current officers.

MATTERS NOT ON POSTED AGENDA (TO BE DISCUSSED AND PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING)

Diego Busatto, California Department of Fish and Game, notified the Commission that the department would be suspending the stocking of Peck Pit at Santa Fe Dam due to the sandy condition around the lake which makes it difficult to stock. Commissioner Hybarger stated that he is aware of additional problems that the lake has including the fact that it is not properly fed by regular streams, rather it is fed by run-off and is not properly kept. Mr. Busatto stated that he contacted Fred Evans about the situation but nothing has ever been done. The Commission plans to draft a letter to Fred Evans at Flood Control Division of the Department of Public Works to let him know that the lake will no longer be stocked and to inquire as to whether Public Works can provide a solution to the problem so that this action can be reversed.

Commissioner Hybarger noted that a recent publication by Richard Alden Bean entitled <u>Fly Fishing</u> Southern California's Lakes and Stream mentioned the Los Angeles County area.

Commissioner Hybarger also mentioned that looked into the prospect of having a belt buckle prepared that could be presented to retiring Commissioners for years of service. The cost would be around \$115 per buckle. For the female members of the Commission, he mentioned that a bracelet with the same design can be made as well.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Louise Fiorillo inquired if there was any feedback or reconsideration on the letter that the Commission sent to the United States Forest Service regarding the exclusion of hunting and fishing in the five Southern Management Districts.

On January 29th there will be a discussion forum on the Angeles National Forest at the Glendora Public Library. Commissioner Hybarger plans to attend and will address this issue with the local supervisor who attends these meetings. A follow up report will be made at the next Commission meeting.

<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.